



# Arkansas Department of Education

*Transforming Arkansas to lead the nation in student-focused education*

**Johnny Key**  
*Commissioner*

May 30, 2018

## **RE: CALT Certification for Dyslexia Ancillary**

**State Board  
of Education**

A school district shall have individuals serving as dyslexia interventionists, no later than the 2015-2016 school year (Ark. Code Ann. § 6-41-607). "Dyslexia interventionist" means a school district or public school employee trained in a dyslexia program, such as a dyslexia therapist, dyslexia specialist, reading interventionist, certified teacher; or tutor or paraprofessional working under the supervision of a certified teacher.

**Dr. Jay Barth**  
*Little Rock  
Chair*

**Joe Black**  
*Newport  
Vice Chair*

Dyslexia therapy is defined as an appropriate specialized dyslexia instructional program that is delivered by a dyslexia therapist. These programs are often referred to as multisensory structured language programs. The principles of instruction and content of a multisensory structured language program are outlined in the Dyslexia Resource Guide 2017, Section VIII: Instructional Approaches for Students with Dyslexia.

**Susan Chambers**  
*Bella Vista*

**Charisse Dean**  
*Little Rock*

A dyslexia therapist is defined in the law as a professional who has completed training and obtained certification in dyslexia therapy from a dyslexia therapist training program defined by the Arkansas Department of Education (Ark. Code Ann. § 6-41-602).

**Dr. Fitz Hill**  
*Little Rock*

The Arkansas Department of Education Division of Learning Services defines a dyslexia therapy program as a program that is nationally accredited, requires a teaching practicum, and a certification exam administered by a national certifying professional organization.

**Ouida Newton**  
*Poyen*

**Mireya Reith**  
*Fayetteville*

International Multisensory Language Education Council (IMSLEC) is a national organization that accredits dyslexia therapist training programs. Participants who successfully complete an IMSLEC accredited course are eligible to take the Alliance Registration Exam for Multisensory Structured Language Education administered by the Academic Language Therapy Association (ALTA). Participants passing the Alliance Registration Exam earn the title of Certified Academic Language Therapist (CALT). This certification allows an individual to provide therapeutic services to students with characteristics of dyslexia. Therefore, we recommend the approval of a CALT certification for a Dyslexia ancillary license.

**R. Brett Williamson**  
*El Dorado*

**Diane Zook**  
*Melbourne*

Sincerely,

**Stacy Smith, Assistant Commissioner**  
Division of Learning Services

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SS:ajs

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Enclosed: IMSLEC's Mission, Vision, Purpose, and Benefits  
Multisensory Structured Language: Content & Principles of Instruction  
ALTA Brochure  
CALT Brochure

## **IMSLEC's Mission, Vision, Purpose, and Benefits**

### **MISSION OF IMSLEC**

The mission of IMSLEC is to accredit quality training courses for the professional preparation of multisensory structured language education specialists.

### **VISION**

IMSLEC's vision is to improve the instruction of reading for all children and adults.

### **PURPOSE OF IMSLEC**

- To advocate for high standards in the professional preparation of multisensory structured language education specialists — clinicians and teachers
- To establish standards and criteria of excellence
- To evaluate and accredit:
  - Comprehensive MSLE training courses offered by existing independent agencies and centers; and
  - MSLE courses offered by other already accredited institutions.

### **BENEFITS OF IMSLEC**

Through accreditation of training programs, IMSLEC assists individuals with dyslexia and related disorders to reach their potential as contributing members of society.

IMSLEC is an important resource for parents, government agencies, and educational systems for the clarification of what constitutes a quality teacher training program for teachers of dyslexic students by establishing organizational criteria and evidenced-based instructional program standards for content and methodology for MSLE training courses. IMSLEC provides a directory of accredited programs, teachers, and therapists.

Accreditation of a training course assures intervention for children and adults with dyslexia is based on an alternate reading approach which has a scientific basis for its instructional procedures. Individuals with dyslexia or related disorders require a different method of teaching to match their learning differences.

Accreditation of an MSLE training course assures that the teachers or therapists trained in that program have received adequate course instruction and practicum in the skills required to produce positive, measurable results in literacy for the dyslexic population.

# Multisensory Structured Language: Content & Principles of Instruction

## MSL PROGRAMS: CONTENT AND PRINCIPLES OF INSTRUCTION

The goal of any multisensory structured language program is to develop a student's independent ability to read, write and understand the language studied.

According to the National Teacher Education Task Force of The International Dyslexia Association (formerly Orton Dyslexia Society) multisensory structured language programs should include the following content and be taught with the following principles of instruction.

Content: Structure of the English Language	Principles of Instruction				
	Simultaneous Multisensory VAKT	Systematic and Cumulative	Direct Instruction	Diagnostic Teaching to Automaticity	Synthetic / Analytic Instruction
• Phonology and phonological awareness	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
• Sound / symbol association: visual to auditory, auditory to visual, blending and segmenting	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
• Syllables: types and patterns for division	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
• Morphology: basewords, roots, affixes	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
• Syntax: grammar, sentence variation, mechanics of language	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
• Semantics: meaning	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

## LEVELS OF ACCREDITATION WHICH A COURSE MAY ACHIEVE

### Therapy Level Standards

<b>Degree Required</b>	Master's-Education or related					
<b>Course Contact Hours</b>	200 total					
<b>Practicum Hours*</b>	700	—	500	—	350	Extended if needed
<b>Direct Observations</b>	10	—	15	—	20	
<b>Period</b>	24 month minimum					Extended if needed
<b>CEUs</b>	30 hours over 3 years					



### **Academic Language Therapy**

is the diagnostic and prescriptive application of Multisensory Structured Language to mitigate or remediate written-language disorders, including dyslexia.

### **The Academic Language Therapy Association<sup>®</sup> (ALTA)**

is the credentialing organization which establishes, maintains, and promotes professional standards of education, practice, and conduct credentialing for Certified Academic Language Practitioners, Instructors of Certified Academic Language Practitioners, Certified Academic Language Therapists, and Qualified Instructors.

### **Membership Levels**

- Certified Academic Language Practitioner (CALP)
- Instructor of CALP (I-CALP)
- Certified Academic Language Therapist (CALT)
- Qualified Instructor
- Trainee Affiliate
- Honorary Lifetime Member



## **PROFESSIONAL BENEFITS**

- ✓ Prestigious, elite, professional certification that reflects advanced, specialized training and skills
- ✓ Association with a dynamic network of skilled professionals
- ✓ Regional Chapters
- ✓ Opportunity to be listed in the national, public *Directory of Certified Members*
- ✓ Affordable CEU opportunities
- ✓ Chapter legislative support
- ✓ Annual national conference
- ✓ Regional conferences

**ALTAread.org**

# CALT

## Certified Academic Language Therapists

ALTA Certified Academic Language Therapists provide diagnostic, explicit, systematic Multisensory Structured Language intervention which builds a high degree of accuracy, knowledge, and independence for students with written-language disorders, including dyslexia.

### Certified Academic Language Therapists (CALT) are

#### Clinically Diagnostic and Prescriptive

Certified Academic Language Therapists (CALT) review comprehensive evaluation reports and academic samples, then administer academic skills assessments for baseline documentation. Throughout Multisensory Structured Language therapy sessions, student performance informs diagnostic and prescriptive intervention to create a high level of accuracy, fluency, and understanding for independence in written language skills.

#### Skilled in Multisensory Structured Language

Certified Academic Language Therapists integrate visual, auditory, and motor processing with explicit understanding of the structure of the English language, which provides a solid foundation in written language skills.

#### Intensive

Certified Academic Language Therapists provide expert, skilled one-to-one or small-group intervention, with high frequency over a sustained period of time, which links explicit understanding, repeated practice and performance to develop accurate and fluent reading with comprehension.

#### Results Driven

Certified Academic Language Therapists enable explicit understanding and application of the structure of the English language (phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics, pragmatics, and orthography), to create the foundation for age-appropriate oral and written language, including reading accuracy, fluency and comprehension, spelling, and written expression.

